GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:518
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008
REVIEW OF VULNERABILITY MAP OF DISASTER PRONE AREAS
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have warned against earthquakes and called for review of vulnerability map of major disaster prone areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) No Sir, the experts have not given any specific warning of Earthquakes. In fact there is no scientific method available for forecasting earthquakes. However, Himalayan region is known to be prone to earthquakes of large magnitude. It may be mentioned that several scientists across the globe and within the country have expressed possible threat perception due to future large earthquakes in the region.

The issue of review of vulnerability maps of the major disaster prone areas in the country is addressed by the Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) under the Ministry of Urban Development. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has constituted a committee to revise the Seismic Zonation map of India. The BIS committee deliberated the issue in its meeting held on 26th July 2007 and recommended no revision of existing zoning map of IS 1893(Part1):2002.

(c) Recently the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued comprehensive guidelines for management of earthquake disasters. As a measure of earthquake disaster mitigation, microzonation studies of Delhi, Guwahati & Jabalpur have been conducted for assessment of site dependent hazard. It is proposed to carry out seismic microzonation studies of other cities falling in seismic zone IV and V during XI Five Year plan.